

A Rocky Balboa figure, Barbaro continued to fight even when the odds were strongly stacked against him. While many veterinarians said that a horse could not survive with the type of injuries Barbaro sustained at the Preakness, he fought for over 8 months, greatly exceeding expectations. What followed the injury was an outpouring of support not frequently seen in our world today. Letters, donations and gifts came in from all over the world, all because of what this wonderful horse embodied.

Barbaro had a strong connection to my home State of Delaware as he raced at Delaware Park and was trained by local trainer Michael Matz. The Barbaro story is an inspirational tale that will be remembered for generations. While a racing champion many times over, Barbaro's greatest talent was bringing people together and inspiring them.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL L.  
PHILLIPS

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael Leo Phillips, a man who spent the past 37 years serving the students of Indiana State University, ISU, in Terre Haute. Mr. Phillips passed away on January 18, 2007 at the age of 60.

After graduating from ISU in 1969, Mr. Phillips remained in Terre Haute to work in the university's financial aid office, of which he would later become director. In 1995 Phillips became the student ombudsman at his alma mater, a role which allowed him to personally interact with and assist students.

Beyond all of his hard work at ISU, Mr. Phillips was actively involved in the Terre Haute community. He served as trustee and treasurer for the Spruce Street AME Church. His community involvement included serving as president of the Young Men's Civic Club; membership in the NAACP, I-Club, and 100 Concerned African American Men; and volunteering with the Vigo County Youth Football League, and Bambino youth baseball. He served on the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and as a trustee of the Stewart Lawn Cemetery Association. He was an adviser to many student organizations at ISU and a mentor to students at Sarah Scott Middle School.

In college Phillips played both basketball and baseball. He was on the 1967–68 Sycamores basketball team, which reached the NCAA Tournament championship game and was inducted into the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005.

Michael Phillips will be greatly missed by his wife Rita, four children, and his many friends and family in Terre Haute and beyond. Mr. Phillips will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for students, a community leader, an accomplished student-athlete, and a loving family man.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF ERNEST  
MENDOZA

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to the life of Chief Ernest Mendoza. Chief Mendoza was a dedicated public servant, whose spirit and drive impacted the lives of all of those he encountered. On January 19th Chief Mendoza was on his way home from work when he was killed by a drunk driver. His sudden and tragic death has brought sadness and sorrow not only to his family but also to the students and staff of the Needville Independent School District and the communities of Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

This 54-year-old father of seven was a Christian and military veteran who led an honorable life. As a part of the Needville Independent School District Police for the past 10 years, and a law enforcement officer for 25, Chief Mendoza's drive and passion for public safety touched many of his fellow officers on the police force. Students and teachers in Fort Bend County will always remember his welcoming smile and that he protected them with care.

His family has established The Ernest Mendoza Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund in his honor. This fund is representative of the commitment and sacrifice which characterized Chief Mendoza's years of service, his character, and integrity. In death, as in life, he and his family continue to be dedicated to educating our Nation's youth in safe and adequate public schools.

My sincerest condolences go to the family, friends, and colleagues of Chief Ernest Mendoza. May God provide peace and comfort to his loved ones, and to those he protected.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, to join me in honoring Chief Mendoza and his family by entering his name and legacy into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FULLY FUNDING IMPACT AID

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Aid Act, GRADE-A, H.R. 701, a bill to ensure the Federal government fully funds the Impact Aid program.

In 1950, President Harry Truman established the Impact Aid program to meet the revenue shortfalls in school districts and communities that occur in districts with federally owned land, which are exempt from State and local property taxes. Public schools are required by law to accept all children from military families, Native American reservations or other Federal establishments. This puts a severe financial burden on school districts that educate a significant number of federally connected children, diminishing the overall quality of education, and increasing the funding burden on local taxpayers.

For years Impact Aid was fully funded and offered some of the strongest direct assistance to military families across the Nation. Unfortunately, over the last decade we have fallen behind on this commitment. GRADE-A has garnered bipartisan support and offers the opportunity to reverse this negative trend.

Earlier this Congress I introduced H.R. 12, in order to ensure that students in my district continue to receive the resources needed to succeed. I introduced this bill to help North Chicago continue to qualify as "heavily impacted" and therefore, receive maximum funding, and to ensure that Glenview and Highland Park receive fair compensation.

I believe that it is crucial for schools outside of my district that are affected by the presence of the Federal government to receive support from the Impact Aid program as well. This funding is necessary to maintain school quality, protect surrounding communities from financial burden and to fulfill an obligation to our men and women serving overseas, by caring for their families at home.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HAMILTON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 29, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend in South Carolina aviation, community activist, and real humanitarian, Jimmie L. "Jim" Hamilton. Jim is a true friend to me and to many other South Carolinians whose lives he has touched through his work and his service.

Although Jim Hamilton has been recognized as South Carolina Aviator of the Year, been awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina; and received the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas Walt Disney Award, he remains a humble man whose big heart and bigger personality mask the adversities he has faced.

The son of a commercial fisherman and ship maintenance father, Jim grew up in Florida's Lower Matecumbe Key, where he was the only school-aged child. He took a boat to school, until his family relocated to Miami, where he attended high school. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Jim's career in the military would change the course of his life. He became a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, but he always wanted to be a pilot. Since the Army required officers to fly, Jim applied to officer training school and was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From 1949–1958, he flew spotter planes for the Army. Jim maintains that learning to fly shaped his character and taught him honor and determination.

When Jim left the Army in 1958, he became a flight instructor and Jack-of-all-trades with Aircraft Sales and Service at the Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, South Carolina, but he always wanted to own his own business.

In 1961, Jim's life changed completely when his wife, Geraldine, died in a car accident. He was left to care for 3 young boys. His mother moved to Columbia from Florida to manage the household, and just a few months later, Jim was managing Owens Field airport.

The next year, he opened Midlands Aviation in a 1-room office in the Five Points area of